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[illegible] school officer in the Terr.[illegible]

To HIS EXCELLENCY,

[illegible] that gives me

C. MEYER ZULICK,

the

Governor of Arizona,

SIR-

In conformity with your request under date of September 9th., 1887, for such information respecting the subject of education and school lands of this territory as have come to my official notice as Superintendent of Public Instruction, I begto report as follows :

The school year, by law, closes in this territory on the 30th. of June. The reports from the different County Superintendents are not due in my office until on and after the first of August following. You will there-fore see at a glance that it is impossible for me to give you any statistics outside of those embodied in the report of my predecessor, the Hon. R. L. Long, made last De-cember.

Outside of this, in my travels through the Terri-tory I have discovered that the interest in education on the part of the people has materially increased.

I believe that as a rule the counties have been more fortunate in their election of County School Superin-tendents. They, seemingly without exception, are men that, notwithstanding their salaries have decreased by the action of the last legislature, who are very anxious to see the school laws properly enforced and to foster and increase the education of our people.

It is with pleasure that I can say since I have been in charge of the office I have met with a ready assist-

-tance fromevery school officer in the Territory includ-
-ing the Territorial Board of Education that gives me great hopes of making such material improvements in the cause for the coming year.

The leading trouble with the machinery created by law for the advancement of the cause of education is that in small districts remote from railroad or commer-
-cial centres the people elect persons to the position of School Trustees who do not pay that attention to the duties of their office that they should. As a result this retards the effective work of the County Superin-
-tendent and prevents me from obtaining information that would be very desireable and in fact very necessary for a proper administration of the affairs of my office.

The County School Superintendents in every coun-
-ty, without exception, are doing their very best to make a success of the different public schools under their jurisdiction.

Teachers Institutes, that the law provides for to be held in each county, have so far been entirely ignored.

This I am very sorry for, for the reason that I know of nothing that I consider of so much advantage to the teachers and scholars as a periodical institute of the teachers. I am now in communication with the dif-
-ferent railroad corporations in this Territory with a view of obtaining a reduced rate of fare for teachers and other freinds of education in Arizona generally to hold a Territorial Institute in this city sometime dur-
-ing the Fall. I shall use my best endeavors to accom

-plish it and to make it a success. It will be the first Institute, either county or territorial, that has ever been held in this Territory.

The County Boards of Examiners have not granted as many county certificates as heretofore.

Whether this is owing to the fact that a poorer quality than usual of applicants have presented themsel-ves for examination or that the questions have been more difficult to answer I am unable at this moment to determine.

The manner of taking the census of children of school age for the different districts as prescribed by law is very imperfect; several districts having come under my notice in which the same children were reported for two different districts.

The law not regulating the compensation for the ser-vices of the census marshals has also been taken advan-tage of in some instances by the trustees paying exhor-bitant prices for this service.

The schools themselves have not been continued during the past year for that length of time that they should have been owing in almost every instance to a lack of funds. The Territorial tax being barely sufficient to cover the expenses of the territorial administration and the county Supervisors, in most cases, fearing the criticism of the citizens generally levy the minimum amount, or very near the minimum amount, of tax allowed by law; thus leaving the several districts with an in-

-sufficient supply of funds for the necessary expenses of the year.

Notwithstanding a decrease in population of some one or two counties in the Territory, the number of pupils at-tending school has been very materially increased.

The supply of teachers has hardly been sufficient for the demand.

The school libraries are very insignificant.

In wext books there has been no change in the Terri-tory and, with the exception of one city, -the city of Tombstone- no change is contemplated.

The cash balances on hand in the different counties to the credit of the different districts is rather more than it was last year.

There are more teachers employed, more scholars in at-tendance and a better prospect for a continued improvement in the cause of education than at any time heretofore.

In regard to the public lands set apart by the United States Government for the benefit of education in this Territory I beg to state that by act of Congress there have been seventy two sections of public lands within this territory granted for the purposes of a University and the sixteenth and thirty-sixth sections of every township set apart for a school fund.

By further act of Congress we are deprived of the use of these lands until we become a state. This operates one of the greatest injustices to the cause of education that can possibly be imagined and owing to this the Territory is very poor in cash on hand.

As a state we would, naturally, be in a much more flour-ishing financial condition. Not having any control over these lands, the result has been that many sections- perhaps all of them that are covered with tim-ber(and for that reason only valuable)- are being de-nuded so that when we become a state and obtain control of them they will practically be valueless.

Many of these sections are being occupied by poor set-tlers who, ignorantly and for want of timely warning are wasting time, energy and money in erecting buildings and making improvements that they in future will have to abandon without a just recompense.

I can conceive of nothing that Congress or the ad-ministration could possibly do in the interest of ed-ucation for this territory- unless it were an actual cash donation- that would be of such great importance and so highly appreciated by our entire people, as the actual transfer of these lands to the Territory at this time.

The Territorial Normal School has made rapid progress in the past year, with a magnificent prospect for its future success.

In the way of statistics for the year ending June 30, 1889 there have been about twenty five new schools es-tablished. Notwithstanding this, the actual total expenses for the past year have been but about one hun-dred and twelve thousand dollars, while the year before they were one hundred and thirty five thousand.

Very Respectfully Submitted,

CHARLES M. STRAUSS,

Superintendent of Public Instruction.

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